

**Educational Success Task Force
Thursday, June 7, 2012
President's Conference Room
Colorado Community College System
9101 East Lowry Blvd., Denver, CO
Prepared by Kristen Johnson, Legislative Council Staff**

All of the materials referenced in this summary are available on the Educational Success Task Force website at: <http://www.colorado.gov/lcs/EdSuccessTF>.

1:00 p.m. - Welcome and Introductions

Senator King welcomed the members of the Educational Success Task Force (task force) to the meeting. The members of the task force and the audience introduced themselves. Six members participated electronically. A list of the meeting attendees is included at the end of this meeting summary. Senator King asked the task force and audience members to share their plans for the summer.

1:15 p.m. - Review of the Legislative Session

Senator King asked Julie Pelegrin and Brita Darling, Office of Legislative Legal Services, to provide the task force with an update of the legislative session. A handout was distributed to the members which summarizes the bills that were brought forward. Ms. Pelegrin and Ms. Darling walked the task force through the handout and discussed the details of the legislation that was enacted by the General Assembly.

The task force discussed other education-related legislation that was enacted during the 2012 regular legislative session. Dr. Anderson discussed one bill relating to drop-out recovery, which was not passed out of the task force, but that was carried by the community college system and enacted.

1:35 p.m. - Subcommittee Reports

Scott Mendelsberg, co-chair of subgroup 1, provided an overview of the group's charge and activities. Mr. Mendelsberg said that subgroup 1 looked at the areas of early literacy, blended learning, and transition points between K-12 and postsecondary education. He highlighted a few key issues that were discussed by the subgroup in the area of early literacy, including, ensuring that every elementary school teacher is a reading specialist; understanding the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs; and requiring all districts to publicize test scores in kindergarten readiness and first and second grade assessments. In the area of blended learning, he said that the group examined the use of online education in a blended environment, noting that with such programs mastery must be achieved before moving on to new material which helps with the problem of social promotion. He discussed assessments, the ASSENT program, and remediation. Lastly, Mr. Mendelsberg discussed transitions between K-12 and higher education, saying that the subgroup discussed pushing remediation down into the eighth and ninth grades, and what can be done to align course content in K-12 with higher education.

Dr. Anderson discussed supplemental education which, she explained, ties remediation to course content.

Samantha Long and Jane Szucs, co-chairs of subgroup 2, provided an overview of the group's work. Ms. Szucs discussed competency-based learning, stating that it is learning that meets students where they are at and that seat time, instruction, and support are flexible under this type of learning system. She discussed Adams County School District 50 who has moved to a competency-based learning system across the board and highlighted some of the challenges the district faces under this type of system. She stated that competency-based learning systems work against social promotion.

Ms. Long discussed formative and interim assessments in relation to competency-based learning. She stated that interim assessments provide for a more regular review of where students are in their learning and may be able to identify the areas where students need additional help.

Dr. Anderson stated that Iowa has a great model for competency-based learning.

2:15 p.m. - Report to the Legislature

The task force members discussed the report that must be submitted to the State Board of Education and to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education by July 1, 2012. Dr. Anderson said that she would begin preparing a rough draft of the report.

2:35 p.m. - Next Steps

The members discussed upcoming meetings and agendas of the task force. The task force will meet on the following dates from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Colorado Community College System offices: June 27, July 11 and 25, August 15, September 12, and September 26, 2012.

3:00 p.m. - Adjourn

The task force meeting adjourned.

Educational Success Task Force

Date: June 7, 2012

Name	Present	Absent
Sen. Bob Bacon		x
Rep. Rhonda Fields		x
Rep. Chris Holbert	x	
Sen. Evie Hudak	(rep. by Ron Brady)	
Sen. Keith King	x	
Rep. Tom Massey		x
Public Committee Members		
Geri Anderson	x	
Mark Bell	x	
Charlotte Brantley		x
Judi Diaz Bonacquisti		x
Perla Delgado		x
Tamara Durbin	participated electronically	
Carrie Heaney	x	
Daniel Jablonsky		x
Sharon Kallus	participated electronically	
Kim Knous Dolan		x
Samantha Long	participated electronically	
Rod Lucero		x
Ryan McCoy		x
Scott Mendelsberg	x	
Michelle Pearson	participated electronically	

Name	Present	Absent
Montina Romero	participated electronically	
Deanna Sands		x
Susan Scheibel	(rep. by Carol Norberg)	
Bruce Siegel		x
Kevin Simpson		x
Judy Skupa	x	
John Sutton		x
Jane Szucs	participated electronically	
Tracy Thompson		x
Jeff Wilhite		x

Staff Signature